

# Museum of Fine Arts Bulletin

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## The Administration of the Museum.

AT the quarterly meeting of the Trustees of the Museum held July 18 last, Samuel D. Warren, President of the Museum since January, 1901, informed the Trustees that he would not be a candidate for reelection at the expiration of his present term. At the annual meeting, January 17, Gardiner M. Lane was chosen to succeed Mr. Warren. The following resolutions were passed by the Trustees in view of Mr. Warren's retirement:

*Voted:* That we here record our grateful appreciation of the devoted service which Mr. Warren has given to the Museum since he became a member of this Board.

Whatever added efficiency the Boston Museum of Fine Arts may acquire by its transfer to enlarged quarters will be in great part due to his foresight and courageous initiative.

He has given his time and strength to the exhaustive consideration of the needs of our collections, and has spared no pains to make sure that the new buildings shall meet every reasonable requirement.

To this end he has initiated and carried out the most thorough study of the difficult problems of Museum arrangement and administration of which we have knowledge.

As a result of these efforts, we believe that an important advance has been made in the science of fine arts exhibition which will be of lasting benefit to ourselves and to other museums both in this country and elsewhere.

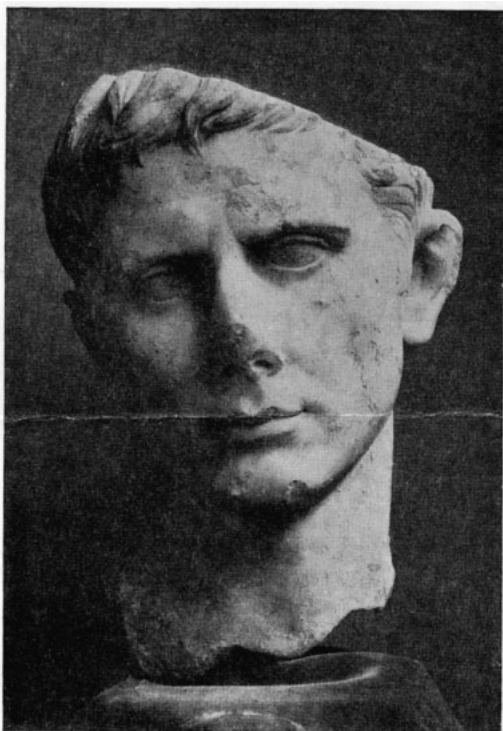
Mr. Lane was appointed a Trustee of the Museum January 18, 1906, and has since served as a member of the Building Committee.

J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., since the same date Temporary Director of the Museum, resigned that position at the annual meeting, having previously notified the Trustees that it would be impossible for him to perform the duties of Director beyond that time. Benjamin Ives Gilman, Secretary of the Museum, was appointed Temporary Director. In accepting Mr. Coolidge's resignation, the Trustees passed the following vote:

*Resolved,* That the Board wishes to place on record its high appreciation of the services of J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., as Director during the past year, a position which he has filled with marked ability, generosity, and fine civic spirit.

The Committee of the Trustees, to which had been referred the matter of the permanent Directorship, reported at the annual meeting that a number of persons had been under consideration for the position, but that the committee was not yet prepared to name a candidate.

## Two Marble Heads of the Emperor Augustus.



Head of Augustus

Gift of Edward W. Forbes

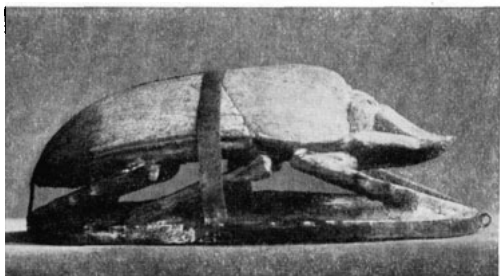
PROBABLY no man of ancient times was more generally honored by the dedication of portrait statues than the Emperor Augustus, whose diplomatic and military genius, enforced by an indomitable will, restored civil order after a generation of conflict, and imposed the *pax Romana* on the Mediterranean world. In the provinces the Emperor was openly deified, though it is said that he allowed divine honors to himself only in association with the worship of divine Rome. So on the Acropolis at Athens a temple of Roma and Augustus rose under the shadow of the Parthenon; many such were built, we may believe, in the Greek and Asiatic cities of the empire.

The demand for portraits of the Emperor, both at home and abroad, must have been incessant, and, considering the length of his reign and the

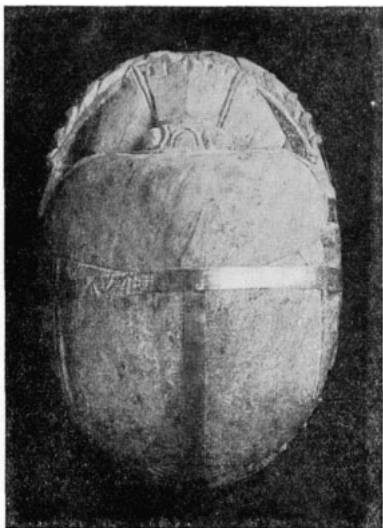
The Museum is fortunate in possessing this very human presentation of a statesman whose achievements appeared divine to the people whom he governed. It shows the face of a man worn by ambitions and responsibilities, but still resolute in purpose.

S. N. D.

### A Scarab of Seti I.



FROM the bequest of Mrs. Martin Brimmer the Museum has recently received a scarab of very unusual size and workmanship, which has been placed on exhibition in the First Egyptian Room, in Case 7, which contains also the earlier Lion-Hunt Scarab of Amenhotep III. The newly installed specimen belongs to the reign of Seti I (circ. 1326-1300 B. C.), in the nineteenth dynasty. It is of a greenish-blue faience and measures 11.3 cms. by 7.8 cms. A very unusual feature, apart from the mere size, is the curious "harness" for suspension shown in the illustrations. This "harness" is of electrum, or "pale gold," and runs, as may be seen from the cut, around the bottom of the object, while a second strip, passing transversely across the back, is joined to a third, running lengthwise along the line of the wing covers. Seen in profile, this scarab impresses the observer by the elevation of the beetle above the base, from which it is raised by its legs, as if in the act of walking. In the majority of these objects base and body



form one solid piece, and were there no other extraordinary features in the Brimmer specimen, the separation of the beetle from the base would alone make it very remarkable.

Nothing is known as to the provenance of this specimen beyond the fact that it was acquired by Mr. Martin Brimmer himself in Egypt a number of years ago. It had evidently been on a mummy, perhaps that of the great Seti I himself,\* for when the object was turned over to the Museum by the trustees of the Brimmer estate the whole scarab was covered with bits of cloth such as was used for mummy wrappings.

The face of the scarab was at one time gilded, and traces of gold leaf still adhere to the surface. The face bears, not an inscription, but merely a series of cartouches, eighteen in all. These cartouches bear the name and pre-name of Seti, alternately repeated. The topmost cartouche is



Under side of Scarab Showing Cartouches

supported by two Horus-hawks, while a pair of *ankhs* (*cruces ansatae*) are used as flanking ornaments at the ends of the last line. The segment of a circle at the bottom of the field may be taken to be the hieroglyph *nebu*, "lord," "master."

Seti I was one of the greatest monarchs of antiquity. His monuments are found from Palestine to Nubia, and the temple at Karnak was much enlarged by him. On the north wall of the hypostyle court of that edifice are a number of scenes representing the victories of the king, who was, like his son Rameses II, a famous conqueror. In the Brimmer scarab the Museum possesses a beautiful memorial of this once powerful ruler. In size, condition, and workmanship, it is perhaps the most remarkable specimen of this class of objects in the world.

O. B.

\* This mummy is now in Cairo; for its curious history see Petrie, *Hist. Egypt*, III, p. 23-4.